(c) The prolonged incarceration of our nationals in jails in Pakistan is a matter of grave concern to the Government of India. Government has consistently taken up the issue of Indians in custody in Pakistan with the Government of Pakistan, including at the highest level. During the visit of EAM to Pakistan on January 13-14, 2007, it was decided to form a Judicial Committee comprising judges from India and Pakistan to ensure expeditious release and humane treatment of prisoners in either country. The Committee first met on 26-27 February, 2008 in New Delhi. It recommended that a consolidated list with full particulars and their present status of nationals in each other's jails be exchanged on 31st March, 2008 and that prisoners who have completed their sentences and whose national status has been verified be released forthwith. The lists of prisoners have been exchanged by the two Governments on March, 31 and are under study. India expects the Government of Pakistan to implement the recommendations of the Judicial Committee to release and provide consular access to all detained fishermen and prisoners.

Help to terrorist outfits

2710. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has expressed its concerns to Pakistan over ISIs continuing help to terrorist outfits like Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba to launch attacks in India;

(b) if so, the response of Government of Pakistan in this regard;

(c) whether Government proposes to take up the matter seriously with the Government of Pakistan to check such help to terrorist outfits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) India's concerns have been conveyed to the Government of Pakistan repeatedly including at its highest level. The issue of terrorism is discussed with Pakistan in the Composite Dialogue at the Foreign Secretaries talks, at the Home Secretary's talks within the Composite Dialogue, and in the Joint Anti-Terrorism Mechanism (JATM) set up in September, 2006. GoI expects the Government of Pakistan to implement its commitment at the highest level in the 6 January, 2004 Joint Press Statement that it will not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

Stronger Military ties between India and China

2711. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China decided to have a stronger military ties;

(b) if so, whether India has also urged China to settle the border issue between the two countries;

(c) whether recently, the Indian delegation visited China and has proposed resumption of the mechanism in border talks, so that two side could get back again to delineating their claims by trading maps so as to narrow down the differences; and

(d) if so, to what extent the Chinese have agreed and the latest position in regard to the border issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) Government are committed to resolving outstanding differences on the boundary question, through peaceful means and in a fair, reasonable, mutually acceptable and proactive manner. The two sides have each appointed a Special Representative to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework for a boundary settlement. There have been eleven meetings. The Boundary Question was discussed during PM's visit to China from 13 to 15 January, 2008. The two Prime Ministers said, "The two sides remain firmly committed to resolving outstanding differences, including on the boundary question, through peaceful negotiations, while ensuring that such differences are not allowed to affect the positive development of bilateral relations. The two sides reiterate their determination to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question and to build a boundary of peace and friendship on the basis of the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question concluded in April, 2005. The Special Representatives shall complete at an early date the task of arriving at an agreed framework settlement on the basis of this Agreement."

The next meeting of the Special Representatives of the two countries will be held at a mutually convenient time to be decided through diplomatic channels.

Indian Ambassador to China

2712. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Ambassador to China was summoned by the Chinese foreign office in the midnight to lodge protest and handed over list of places of likely demonstrations by the Tibetan refugees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government to lodge its protest for Chinese high handedness;

(c) whether due to this reason a Cabinet Minister's official trip has been cancelled; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) On the evening of 21 March, 2008 some Tibetan refugees forcibly entered the premises of the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi. Government took prompt action in apprehending them. Later that same evening the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs sought a meeting with our Ambassador in Beijing and expressed their appreciation at the prompt action taken by Government. They also requested Government to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure the security of Chinese diplomatic and consular establishments as well as the safety of Chinese citizens. Our Ambassador said that all necessary steps are being taken in this regard.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.